

GENEVA COUNTY

Honorable Charlie Fleming, Jr.

Geneva County Courthouse
P.O. Box 758
Geneva, AL 36340
(334) 684-5630



Kirke Adams
Harry Adkison
Mary Baltikauski
Warren Beck
Jim Bixby
Vann Bradshaw
Tabitha Brannon
Jeannie Bryan
Vickie Carter
Wanda Carpenter
Linda Clemmons
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Vista Volunteer: Charity Reiter

PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Child Abuse/Neglect/Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence
2. Lack of Parental Involvement/Parenting Skills
3. Drug Abuse, with Focus on Methamphetamine

Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county.

Health - Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

Exposure to manufacturing and use of methamphetamines

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Awareness program for childcare workers to recognize signs of exposure
- Continue tutoring and increase after-school programs to act as safe havens and provide opportunities for positive interactions with adults
- Collaborate with mental health agency and victim's advocacy group for in-service and possible program development or implementation for children living in meth lab homes

Domestic Violence

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Work with Hartford Police Department to make available county-wide Training for Police Officers
- CPC and Domestic Violence Task Force to bring Steve Searcy to Geneva County for in-service regarding domestic violence
- Juvenile Judge, Chief Probation Officer, county mental health, Geneva County Family Resource Center to talk with youths at the beginning of the school year about safe homes

Safety - Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

Prevalence of Drugs

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Recruit certified counselors- who are trained specifically to work with families who are affected by illegal drugs
- Funding for a local in house residential treatment facility for addicts
- Promote local support churches, civic groups, schools & awareness of the meth problems

Child Abuse & Neglect

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Seek funding for a full-time law enforcement officer to assist DHR with investigation into serious issue. This person could be an advocate for victims cases and promote awareness of the problems facing our county..

Sexual Assault

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Seek funding for a full-time law enforcement officer to assist DHR with investigation into serious issue. This person could be an advocate for victims cases and promote awareness of the problems facing our county.

Education - Children learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

Truancy

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Continue to expand parent project/positive action program
- Coordination of efforts among schools, juvenile justice, Geneva County Family Resource Center, Spectra Care and parents to encourage/require attendance in parent programs and tutoring
- Literacy program though after school tutoring programs, etc

Parental Involvement

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Continue efforts of the school for Parenting Day and parent involvement
- Continue Coordination of efforts among schools, juvenile justice, Geneva County Family Resource Center, Spectra Care and parents to encourage/require attendance to parent programs and tutoring

Early Care and

Education - Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

School Readiness

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Coordination of school readiness activities between daycares, Pre-K programs and school kindergarten programs
- Explore funding opportunities for additional Pre-K programs
- Information campaign regarding developmental stages, etc. of children 0-5 disseminated monthly through local media outlets

Parental Involvement and Skills

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Continue funding/seeking funding for programs established in the last three years
- Find avenues for conducting positive activities, and network to increase participation in existing programs
- Promotion of parents reading to children

Economic Security

- Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

Lack of Work Ethic

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Partner with local training programs/businesses to provide workplace skills
- Work for daycare assistance options
- Promoter referrals from DHR and other departments to Youth Enrichment Services to increase dropouts who achieve GED and learn job readiness and job retention

Transportation

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Appeal to service organizations to volunteer to provide transportation
- Appeal to churches or public transportation for use of vehicles
- Collaborate with Family Guidance Center to publicize and expand the cars Program in Geneva County

Child Care

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Increase night child care centers
- Work with DHR and HRDC to increase the number of day care home facilities

Parent Involvement and Skills

- Parents and guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

Lack of concern or parental skills concerning anti-social or destructive behavior

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Expand Parent Project and Parent Project, Jr.
- Expand and strengthen referral network to Parent Project programs through schools, courts to reach families at earlier stage
- Provide Parent Project in-service to community stakeholders who work with elementary school-aged families

Lack of Positive Messages/Community Support for Healthy Families

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Promote existing programs and positive messages for families through multimedia outlets
- Collaborate with community partners and agencies to provide family-friendly activities

Policy Recommendation

1. Continue out-of-school and adult education programs.
2. Revise state income tax for poor.
3. Adjust tax laws for those providing transportation.
4. Explore liability laws for those providing transportation.
5. Re-Evaluate effect of child care cuts in all counties.
6. Relax restrictions on home Day Cares.

Accomplishments

1. The Geneva County Children's Policy Council had several accomplishments for this past year. A Tutoring program was implemented for all the elementary schools in the county.
2. The Children's Policy Council retained the YES program when half of these programs were cut in the state. In this grant year, 11 students graduated with their GED from the YES program.
3. The Family Resource Center became more solidified in the community. The Center has added more classes, particularly with Parent Project and Positive Action.
4. Also for the grant year, the District Attorney partnered with the Children's Policy Council and the Family Resource Center for a Pre-Trial Diversion Program. The District Attorney will delay prosecution, pending the offender's completion of programs to include anger management, mental health counseling, Parent Project and other needed services.
5. Lastly, our Boys and Girls Clubs had 50 graduates of the SMART program over the summer.